

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 0175 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN NEW
YORK DATED 15 JANUARY 1975:

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD UNCTAD GATT
SUBJECT: UNCTAD/GATT INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER JOINT ADVISORY
GROUP MEETING

REF: STATE 267442

1. UNDER AUSTRALIAN CHAIRMANSHIP GROUP B HELD THREE-HOUR
MEETING LAST NIGHT TO DISCUSS JAG CHAIRMAN MOEREL'S LATEST
PROPOSAL REGARDING COMPOSITION OF JAG TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.
MOEREL ASKED GROUP B SUPPORT FOR FOLLOWING APPROACH:

(A) TECHCOM WOULD BE COMPOSED OF 18 MEMBERS, AS AT PRESENT,
WITH NINE SEATS FOR GROUP 77, THREE SEATS FOR EE'S, AND SIX
FOR GROUP B;

(B) ROTATION SCHEME WITHIN GROUP B AS PROPOSED BY MOEREL
WOULD HAVE GROUP OF THREE "MAJOR COUNTRIES" (US, FRANCE, FRG)
SHARE TWO SEATS AND FOUR GROUPS OTHER COUNTRIES WITHIN
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GROUP B SHARING ONE SEAT EACH;

,C) ONE OF THESE FOUR SUBGROUPS WOULD CONSIST OF SPAIN, GREECE, TUNKEY, AND ISRAEL, WHICH NOW STANDS TO LOSE CURRENT SEAT SINCE, ACCORDING TO MOEREL, ASIAN GROUP (WHICH WOULD HAVE THREE OF NIN GROUP 77 SEATS) NOT WILLING DESIGNATE ISRAEL FOR ONE OF THEIR SEATS. (MOEREL EXPLAINED THAT GROUP B ARRANGEMENT REGARDING ISRAEL WOULD BE INFORMAL ONE AND WOULD NOT HAVE EFFECT OF MAKING ISRAEL MEMBER OF GROUP B. HOWEVER, THERE WERE PRIVATE EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN THAT SUCH ACTION COULD NEVERTHELESS CREATE A PRECEDENT AND RESULT IN ISRAEL'S BECOMING DE FACTO GROUP B MEMBER, THEREBY COMPLICATING GROUP B'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GROUP 77.)

2. LARGE MAJORITY GROUP B COUNTRIES FAVOR LIMITING TECHCOM SIZE TO 18 AND ARE PREPARED HAVE MOEREL ADVISE JAG OF THIS UNDERSTANDING THAT DECISION ON HOW SIX GROUP B SEATS TO BE ALLOCATED WITHIN GROUP WOULD BE TAKEN BY GROUP B AT LATER TIME. IN OTHER WORDS, MAJORITY GROUP B MEMBERS NOT PREPARED TAKE FIRM DECISION AT THIS TIME ON ROTATIONAL FORMULA PROPOSED BY MOEREL.

3. MOST DELEGATIONS DID NOT ADDRESS PROBLEM OF HOW TO ACCOMMODATE ISRAEL WITHIN GROUP B QUOTA OF SIX SEATS. THERE WAS SOME SYMPATHY FOR ISRAEL'S PLIGHT AS TARGET OF GROUP 77 POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION BUT DELS GENERALLY INDICATED THEY LACK INSTRUCTIONS AND CANNOT ADDRESS ISSUE. (FYI: WE ASSUME MOEREL'S INITIATIVE ON ISRAEL IS BASED ON DISCUSSIONS HE HAS HELD WITH ISRAELLIS AND THAT HIS PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTABLE TO THEM. END FYI.) USDEL INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH IT ALSO UNINSTRUCTED, MOEREL'S PROPOSAL FOR ACCOMMODATING ISRAEL WITHIN GROUP B QUOTA ON INFORMAL BASIS MERITS CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY GROUP B. (SEE SEPTTEL FOR ADDITIONAL USDEL VIEWS ON ISRAELI PARTICIPATION.)

4. FRANCE ONLY COUNTRY CLEARLY OPPOSED TO GROUP B'S TAKING FIRM DECISION AT THIS TIME ON LIMITING TECHCOM SIZE TO 18, ARGUING THAT OTHER ALTERNATIVES (PARTICULARLY EXPANSION TO 24) SHOULD NOT BE FORECLOSED. FRENCH DEL CATEGORICALLY REFUSED ANSWER DIRECT QUESTION POSED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JAPAN AND MOEREL AS TO WHETHER OR NOT IT ACCEPTS PRINCIPLE OF ROTATING SEATS WITHIN GROUP B. SINCE GROUP COULD NOT REACH UNANIMOUS DECISION USDEL STATED IT MUST RESERVE POSITION.

5. MEETING BROKE UP WITH DISGRUNTLED MOEREL STATING WE ARE BACK TO SQUARE ONE AND HE WAS NOT SURE HE CAN AVOID "WASHING GROUP B DIRTY LINEN IN PUBLIC", WHEN HE ADDRESSED

JAG ON ISSUE JANUARY 17. GROUP B CHAIRMAN STATED HE WILL CONSULT INFORMALLY WITH MEMBERS OVER NEXT TWO DAYS TO SEE WHETHER CURRENT IMPASSED CAN BE RESOLVED BEFORE MOEREL TAKES ISSUE TO JAG PLENARY.

6. FOREGOING POSES TWO ISSUES REQUIRING CONSIDERATION BY DEPARTMENT. FIRST IS QUESTION OF WHAT ATTITUDE US SHOULD TAKE TO TECHCOM COMPOSITION ISSUE NOW THAT IT HAS BECOME ESTABLISHED THAT FRANCE IS OPPOSED TO LIMITING SIZE OF TECHCOM TO 18 AND PROBABLY ALSO TO PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION, AND THAT GROUP B AS A WHOLE APPEARS UNABLE REACH AGREEMENT ON ACCEPTABLE ROTATIONAL FORMULA. SECOND IS ISRAELI ISSUE, IMPORTANCE OF WHICH WE UNABLE JUDGE FROM HERE, EITHER IN TERMS OF GOI'S OWN ATTITUDE TO TECHCOM MEMBERSHIP AS SUCH, OR IN TERMS OF ISRAEL'S OVERALL CURRENT OR PROSPECTIVE DIFFICULTIES WITHIN UN SYSTEM.

7. COMMENT: USDEL BELIEVES THAT WHILE MAINTAINING DE FACTO SITUATION, (I.E., LEAVING TECHCOM COMPOSITION ISSUE WITHOUT FORMAL RESOLUTION) WOULD PROBABLY BE MOST ATTRACTIVE OUTCOME FROM OUR STANDPOINT, SUCH OUTCOME NO LONGER POSSIBLE SINCE OTHER GROUPS HAVE ALREADY JOINED ISSUE AND ADVISED MOEREL THEY WISH HAVE ISSUE RESOLVED ON BASIS 18 MEMBER TECHCOM WITH GROUPS PICKING OWN MEMBERS. DALE UNQTE KISSINGER

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